Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, US, IS, XF

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMB. DINITZ

- 1. DURING MEETING BETWEEN DINITZ AND SECRETARY ON JUNE 6, DINITZ ASKED FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED DURING MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL ON JUNE 2 IN NEW YORK.
- 2. SECRETARY RECALLED THAT WE ARE AWAITING ISRAELI RESPONSE TO OUR TWO QUESTIONS. SECRETARY SAID THESE ANSWERS WILL BE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE. IF THEY ARE POSITIVE, OUR HOPE WOULD BE TO SEE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI EXCHANGES RESUMED. IF THE ANSWERS ARE NEGATIVE, WE WOULD HAVE REACHED A SECRET

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STALEMATE. AT THE SAME TIME, SECRETARY SAID HE HAD STRESSED TO KAMEL IMPORTANCE OF EGYPT'S DEVELOPING ITS OWN THINKING ABOUT THE WEST BANK AND GAZA IN A MORE TANGIBLE AND FULLY DEVELOPED FORM. SECRETARY SAID HE HAD FOUND KAMEL GENERALLY RECEPTIVE TO THIS IDEA AND SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED STRONGLY TO KAMEL THAT THIS BE DONE. SECRETARY SAID HE WAS GENERALLY ENCOURAGED. HE REPORTED

THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF HUSSEIN'S COMING INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY SAID HE DOUBTED HUSSEIN COULD DO SO UNTIL HE HAD A CLEARER VIEW OF WHERE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT END

- 3. CIECHANOVER ASKED WHETHER POSITIVE ISRAELI ANSWERS TO CURRENT QUESTIONS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO BRING HUSSEIN INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY REPLIED WITH HIS JUDGMENT THAT HUSSEIN WOULD WANT MORE, FOR INSTANCE ON THE ULTIMATE HANDLING OF JERUSALEM.
- 4. DINITZ ASKED WHAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE IF THE ISRAELI ANSWERS ARE SATISFACTORY TO SADAT BUT NOT TO HUSSEIN. IS SADAT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THE WEST BANK? THE SECRETARY STATED HIS VIEW THAT SADAT WOULD DO SO. ATHERTON MADE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SADAT'S WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD GOVERN A WEST BANK AND GAZA SETTLEMENT AND THE NEGOTIATION OF AN ACTUAL AGREEMENT.
- 5. DINITZ THEN ASKED WHETHER SADAT WOULD CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ON THE SINAI IF HE FINDS HIMSELF UNABLE TO REACH A FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. SECRETARY STATED HIS VIEW THAT IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON A SATISFACTORY DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND IF THERE WERE SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THE TWO SECRET

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QUESTIONS, ISRAEL AND EGYPT COULD REACH A SEPARATE AGREEMENT

- 6. SAUNDERS POINTED OUT THAT ONE ELEMENT WE HAD NOT TALKED MUCH ABOUT BUT WHICH SADAT SEEMS TO HAVE HINTED AT RECENTLY IS POSSIBILITY THAT EGYPT WOULD GO THROUGH WITH AN AGREEMENT ON GAZA WITHOUT TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A FINAL ARRANGEMENT ON THE WEST BANK BUT RATHER LEAVING THE GAZA AGREEMENT TO SERVE AS A MODEL FOR A WEST BANK AGREEMENT.
- 7. DINITZ ASKED WHETHER WE EXPECTED THE EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON WEST BANK AND GAZA SOON. ATHERTON RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE MONTHS BUT SOONER.
- 8. BAR-ON AND CIECHANOVER ASKED HOW WE INTERPRET SADAT'S RECENT STATEMENTS SEEMING TO SET A DEADLINE FOR CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT, AS TIME GOES BY, SADAT SEEMS TO FEEL UNDER INCREASING DOMESTIC PRESSURE AS WELL AS PRESSURE FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD EITHER TO PRODUCE RESULTS OR TO TAKE SOME OTHER STEP.

9. DINITZ NOTED THAT ISRAELI PRESS IS FULL OF STORIES ABOUT IMPENDING U.S. PROPOSAL AND ASKED WHETHER THOSE STORIES ARE TRUE. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT U.S. WOULD PREFER THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL START TALKING AGAIN TOGETHER. AT THIS POINT, WE ARE WAITING FOR TWO THINGS-

ISRAELI ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS AND EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSALS. CIECHANOVER ASKED WHETHER HE WAS CORRECT IN UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO U.S. PROPOSALS BEFORE THOSE TWO STEPS WERE TAKEN, AND THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WAS CORRECT. DINITZ REPEATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT PUT FORWARD ITS PROPOSALS BEFORE THE U.S. HAD TALKED WITH ISRAEL, SECRET

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AND THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THE GOI COULD BE SURE OF THAT. SECRETARY REPEATED HIS HOPE THAT TALKS COULD BEGIN AGAIN BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

10. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, SECRETARY AND DINITZ AGREED THAT WE WOULD SIMPLY SAY TO THE PRESS THAT THE MEETING HAD DEALT WITH BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING ISRAEL'S ARMS REQUESTS, AND WITH THE STATUS OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

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